GEMSTONE PUBLISHING

WALT DISNEY'S

DONALD DUCK AND FRIENDS

MAY
NO. 315
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Pat and Carol McGreal's and Cesar Ferioli's epic Mickey Mouse adventure in the land of Shambor concluded, for now, in last month's issue of *Donald Duck and Friends*. But as you can see from a perusal of this month's letter column, the Shambor tales continue to elicit comments both pro and con from our readers. The letters of praise we've received are represented in this issue by correspondents Joe Torcivia and Chris Barat, while Danny Horn (good to hear from you again) turns in a response indicative of the more jaundiced view towards the series.

But, whether you enjoy the Shambor stories or not, one thing is certain — you have one more installment coming to you in this title. As you no doubt noticed, the last chapter did not resolve the storyline, but the McGreals are working on a fourth story that should do so. We'll be sure to publish it in these pages when it becomes available to us. In the meantime, check out this month's *Mickey Mouse and Friends* for letters on another series on which Torcivia/Horn have differing views, The Riverside Rovers stories.

During Mickey's vacation from Shambor in these pages, we have an interesting line-up of stories of the humorous and the fantastic in store for you, kicking off with this issue's "Bagarthach the Arch-Fiend," from the pen of Donald D. Markstein, which combines a good dollop of both. And lest we forget this is *Donald's* comic book, check out Gorm Transgaard's "Snooper by the Book."

A popular plot device for Donald, established in the 1950s by the legendary comic book creator Carl Barks, is the so-called "mastery" story. In these stories, Donald becomes the best there is (a master) at a certain profession, but comes to a tragic end through happenstance and his own pride. Gorm provides an interesting take on this genre.

—John Clark

• IN THIS ISSUE •

Donald Duck **SNOOPER BY THE BOOK**	**Story:** Gorm Transgaard **Art:** Vicar **Color:** Janice Miller **Lettering:** Jon Babcock
Mickey Mouse **BAGARTHACH THE ARCH-FIEND**	**Story:** Donald D. Markstein **Art:** Rodriques **Color & Lettering:** Scott Rockwell
Grandma Duck **GRANDMA GOES TO TOWN**	**Story:** Dave Rawson **Art:** Marsal **Color:** Terry Letterman **Lettering:** Jon Babcock

Front cover art by Branca, color by Gary Leach

NEXT ISSUE SHIPS WEEK OF MAY 12TH
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Toll Free
(888) 375-9800 Ext. 410
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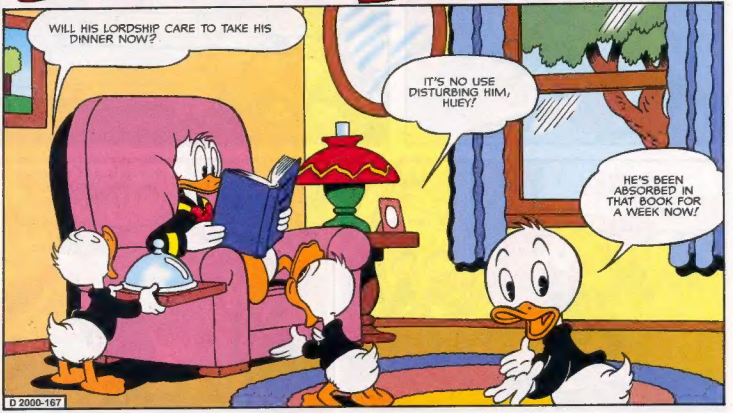
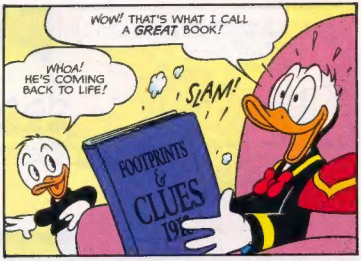
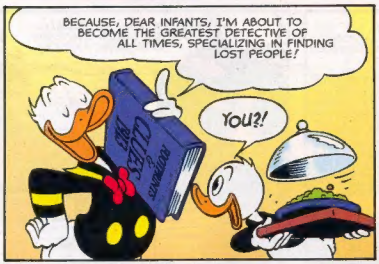
Walt Disney presents

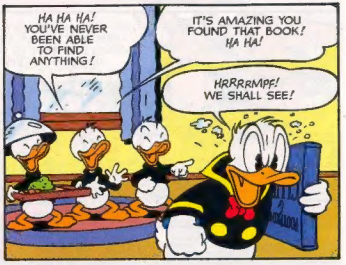
DONALD DUCK in SNOOPER BY THE BOOK

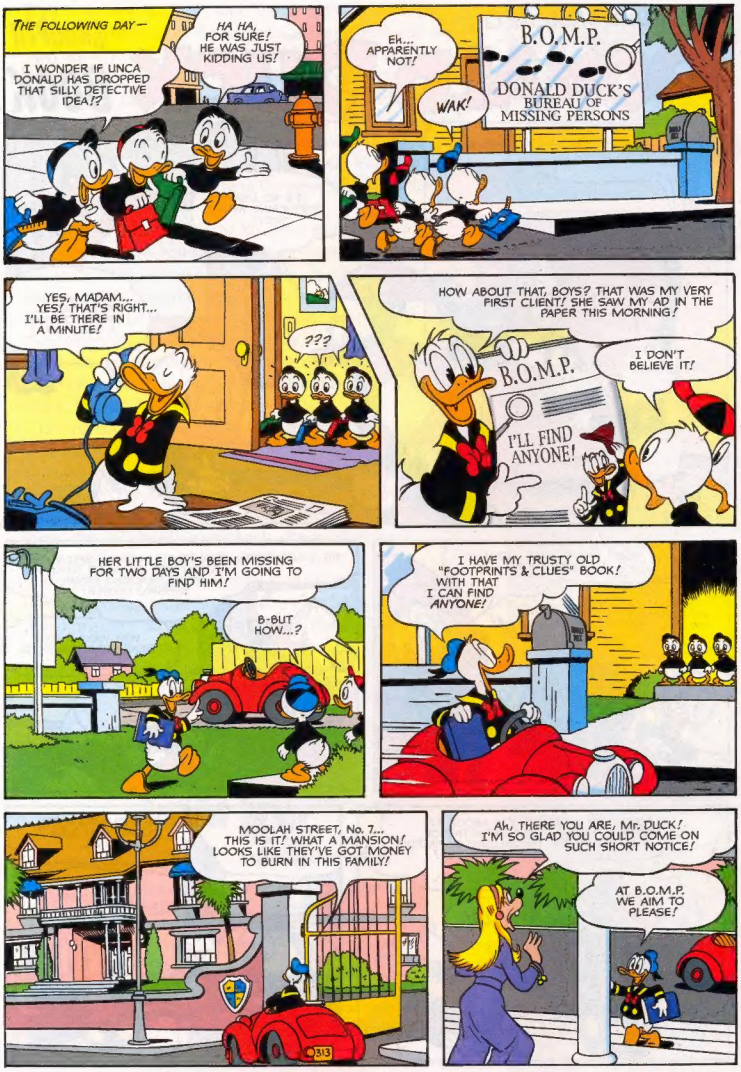

WILL HIS LORDSHIP CARE TO TAKE HIS DINNER NOW?
IT'S NO USE DISTURBING HIM, HUEY!
HE'S BEEN ABSORBED IN THAT BOOK FOR A WEEK NOW!
D 2000-167

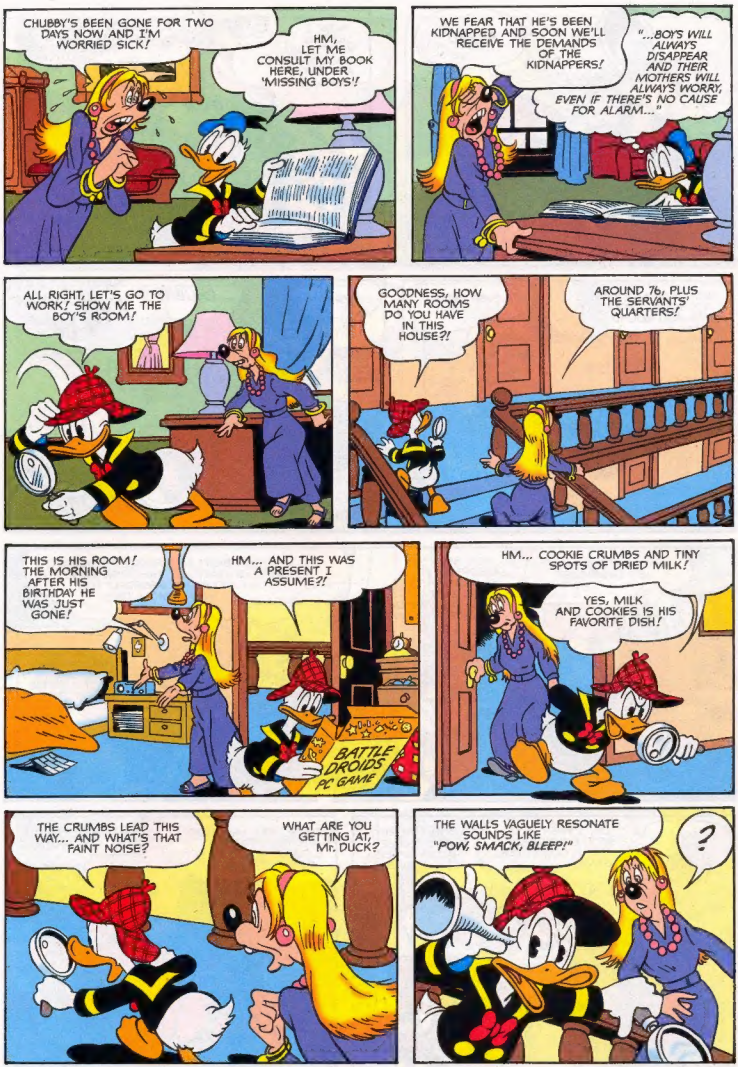


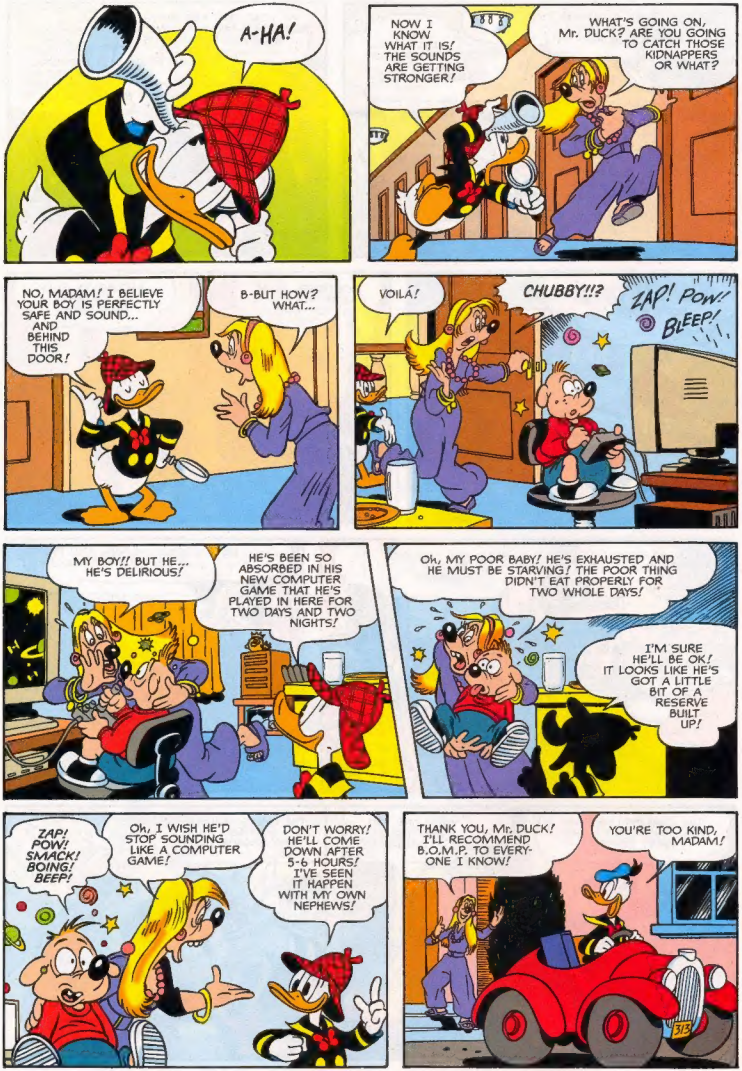
IT'S A WONDERFUL DETECTIVE'S MANUAL, EXPLAINING EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRACKING DOWN MISSING PEOPLE!
WHY WOULD YOU READ SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
FOOTPRINTS & CLUES 1993

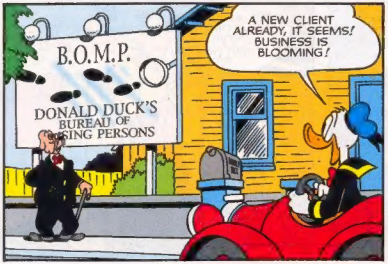

BECAUSE, DEAR INFANTS, I'M ABOUT TO BECOME THE GREATEST DETECTIVE OF ALL TIMES, SPECIALIZING IN FINDING LOST PEOPLE!
YOU?!
FOOTPRINTS & CLUES

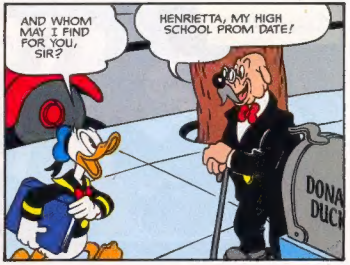


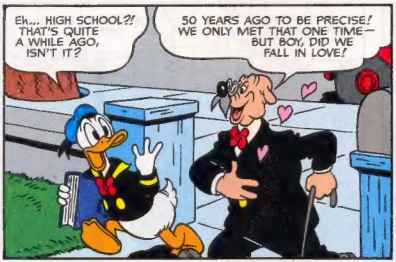

THE FOLLOWING DAY—
I WONDER IF UNCA DONALD HAS DROPPED THAT SILLY DETECTIVE IDEA!?
HA HA, FOR SURE! HE WAS JUST KIDDING US!
EH... APPARENTLY NOT!
WAK!
B.O.M.P.
DONALD DUCK'S BUREAU OF MISSING PERSONS
YES, MADAM... YES! THAT'S RIGHT... I'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE!
???
HOW ABOUT THAT, BOYS? THAT WAS MY VERY FIRST CLIENT! SHE SAW MY AD IN THE PAPER THIS MORNING!
B.O.M.P.
I'LL FIND ANYONE!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
HER LITTLE BOY'S BEEN MISSING FOR TWO DAYS AND I'M GOING TO FIND HIM!
B-BUT HOW...?
I HAVE MY TRUSTY OLD "FOOTPRINTS & CLUES" BOOK! WITH THAT I CAN FIND ANYONE!
MOOLAH STREET, No. 7... THIS IS IT! WHAT A MANSION! LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE GOT MONEY TO BURN IN THIS FAMILY!
313
AH, THERE YOU ARE, Mr. DUCK! I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD COME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE!
AT B.O.M.P. WE AIM TO PLEASE!

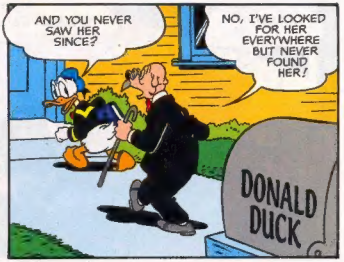

CHUBBY'S BEEN GONE FOR TWO DAYS NOW AND I'M WORRIED SICK!
HM, LET ME CONSULT MY BOOK HERE, UNDER 'MISSING BOYS'!
WE FEAR THAT HE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED AND SOON WE'LL RECEIVE THE DEMANDS OF THE KIDNAPPERS!
"...BOYS WILL ALWAYS DISAPPEAR AND THEIR MOTHERS WILL ALWAYS WORRY, EVEN IF THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM..."
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO TO WORK! SHOW ME THE BOY'S ROOM!
GOODNESS, HOW MANY ROOMS DO YOU HAVE IN THIS HOUSE?!
AROUND 76, PLUS THE SERVANTS' QUARTERS!
THIS IS HIS ROOM! THE MORNING AFTER HIS BIRTHDAY HE WAS JUST GONE!
HM... AND THIS WAS A PRESENT I ASSUME?!
BATTLE DROIDS PC GAME
HM... COOKIE CRUMBS AND TINY SPOTS OF DRIED MILK!
YES, MILK AND COOKIES IS HIS FAVORITE DISH!
THE CRUMBS LEAD THIS WAY... AND WHAT'S THAT FAINT NOISE?
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, Mr. DUCK?
THE WALLS VAGUELY RESONATE SOUNDS LIKE "POW, SMACK, BLEEP!"
?

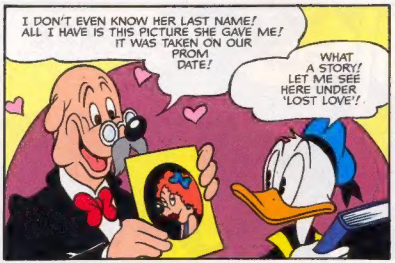

A-HA!
NOW I KNOW WHAT IT IS! THE SOUNDS ARE GETTING STRONGER!
WHAT'S GOING ON, Mr. DUCK? ARE YOU GOING TO CATCH THOSE KIDNAPPERS OR WHAT?
NO, MADAM! I BELIEVE YOUR BOY IS PERFECTLY SAFE AND SOUND... AND BEHIND THIS DOOR!
B-BUT HOW? WHAT...
VOILÁ!
CHUBBY!!?
ZAP! POW! BLEEP!
MY BOY!! BUT HE... HE'S DELIRIOUS!
HE'S BEEN SO ABSORBED IN HIS NEW COMPUTER GAME THAT HE'S PLAYED IN HERE FOR TWO DAYS AND TWO NIGHTS!
Oh, MY POOR BABY! HE'S EXHAUSTED AND HE MUST BE STARVING! THE POOR THING DIDN'T EAT PROPERLY FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS!
I'M SURE HE'LL BE OK! IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT A LITTLE BIT OF A RESERVE BUILT UP!
ZAP! POW! SMACK! BOING! BEEP!
Oh, I WISH HE'D STOP SOUNDING LIKE A COMPUTER GAME!
DON'T WORRY! HE'LL COME DOWN AFTER 5-6 HOURS! I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN WITH MY OWN NEPHEWS!
THANK YOU, Mr. DUCK! I'LL RECOMMEND B.O.M.P. TO EVERY-ONE I KNOW!
YOU'RE TOO KIND, MADAM!

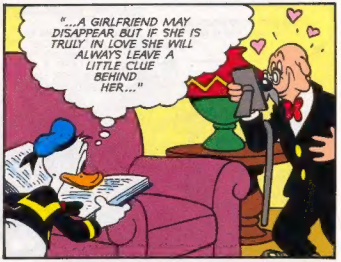

B.O.M.P.
DONALD DUCK'S
BUREAU OF
SING PERSONS
A NEW CLIENT ALREADY, IT SEEMS! BUSINESS IS BLOOMING!

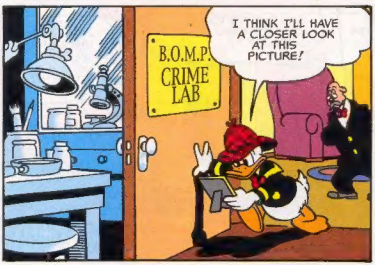

AND WHOM MAY I FIND FOR YOU, SIR?
HENRIETTA, MY HIGH SCHOOL PROM DATE!
DONA
DUCK

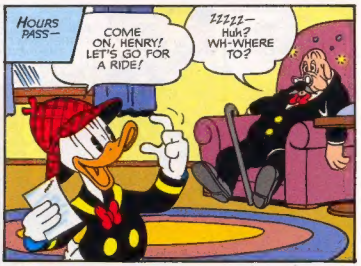

Eh... HIGH SCHOOL?! THAT'S QUITE A WHILE AGO, ISN'T IT?
50 YEARS AGO TO BE PRECISE! WE ONLY MET THAT ONE TIME— BUT BOY, DID WE FALL IN LOVE!

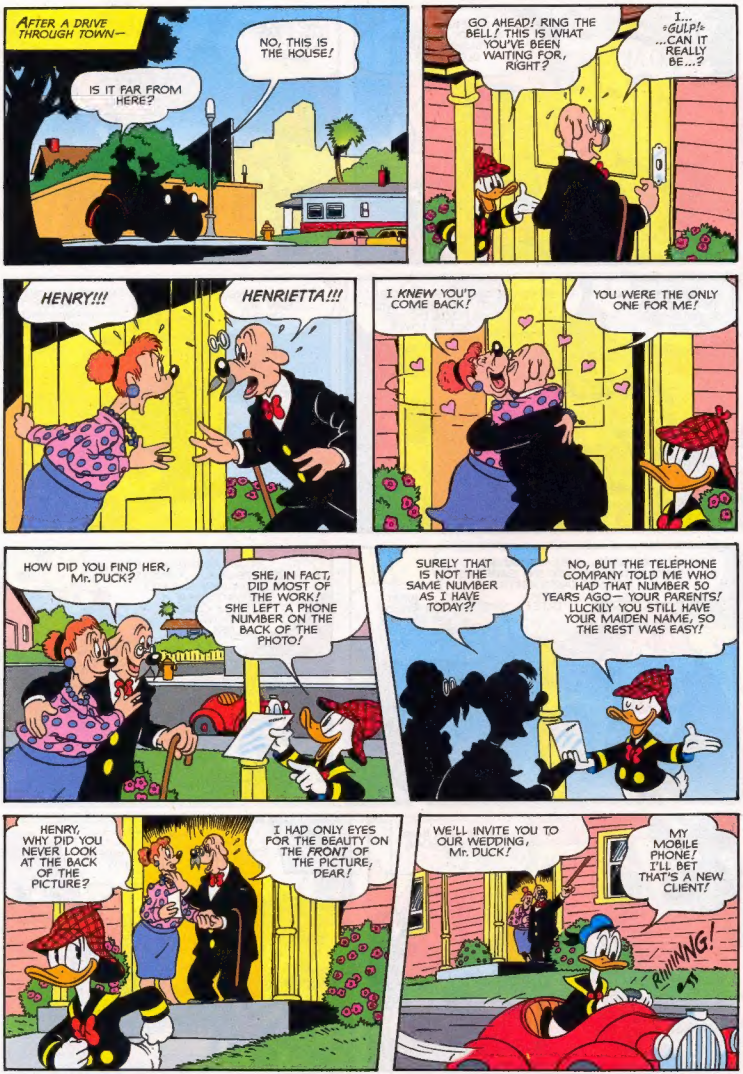

AND YOU NEVER SAW HER SINCE?
NO, I'VE LOOKED FOR HER EVERYWHERE BUT NEVER FOUND HER!
DONALD DUCK


I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER LAST NAME! ALL I HAVE IS THIS PICTURE SHE GAVE ME! IT WAS TAKEN ON OUR PROM DATE!
WHAT A STORY! LET ME SEE HERE UNDER 'LOST LOVE'!

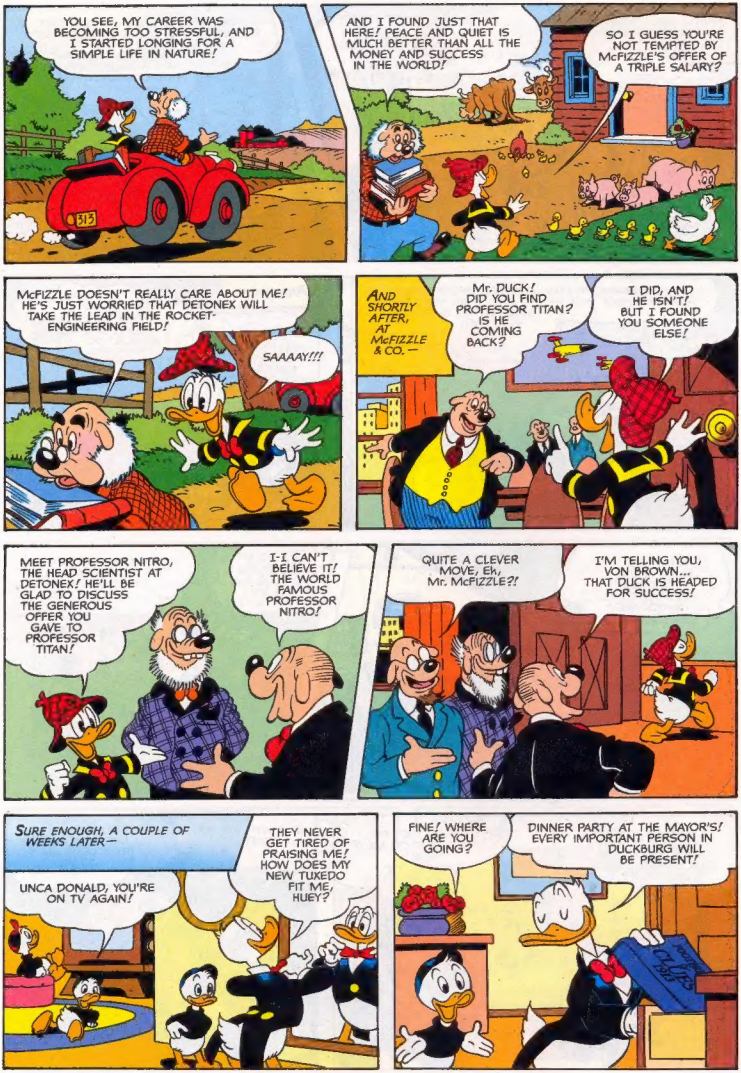

"...A GIRLFRIEND MAY DISAPPEAR BUT IF SHE IS TRULY IN LOVE SHE WILL ALWAYS LEAVE A LITTLE CLUE BEHIND HER..."


B.O.M.P.
CRIME
LAB
I THINK I'LL HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS PICTURE!

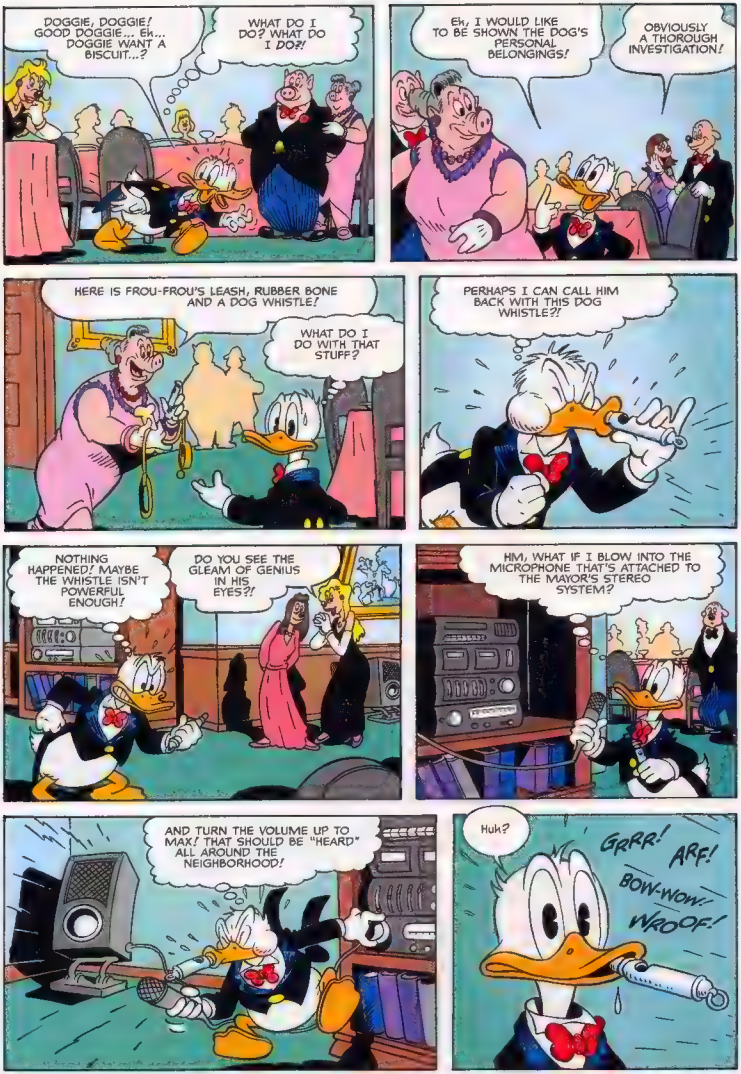

HOURS PASS—
COME ON, HENRY! LET'S GO FOR A RIDE!
ZZZZZ— Huh? WH-WHERE TO?


AFTER A DRIVE THROUGH TOWN—
IS IT FAR FROM HERE?
NO, THIS IS THE HOUSE!
GO AHEAD! RING THE BELL! THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, RIGHT?
I... GULP! ...CAN IT REALLY BE...?
HENRY!!!
HENRIETTA!!!
I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK!
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME!
HOW DID YOU FIND HER, Mr. DUCK?
SHE, IN FACT, DID MOST OF THE WORK! SHE LEFT A PHONE NUMBER ON THE BACK OF THE PHOTO!
SURELY THAT IS NOT THE SAME NUMBER AS I HAVE TODAY?!
NO, BUT THE TELEPHONE COMPANY TOLD ME WHO HAD THAT NUMBER 50 YEARS AGO— YOUR PARENTS! LUCKILY YOU STILL HAVE YOUR MAIDEN NAME, SO THE REST WAS EASY!
HENRY, WHY DID YOU NEVER LOOK AT THE BACK OF THE PICTURE?
I HAD ONLY EYES FOR THE BEAUTY ON THE FRONT OF THE PICTURE, DEAR!
WE'LL INVITE YOU TO OUR WEDDING, Mr. DUCK!
MY MOBILE PHONE! I'LL BET THAT'S A NEW CLIENT!
RRIIINNG!

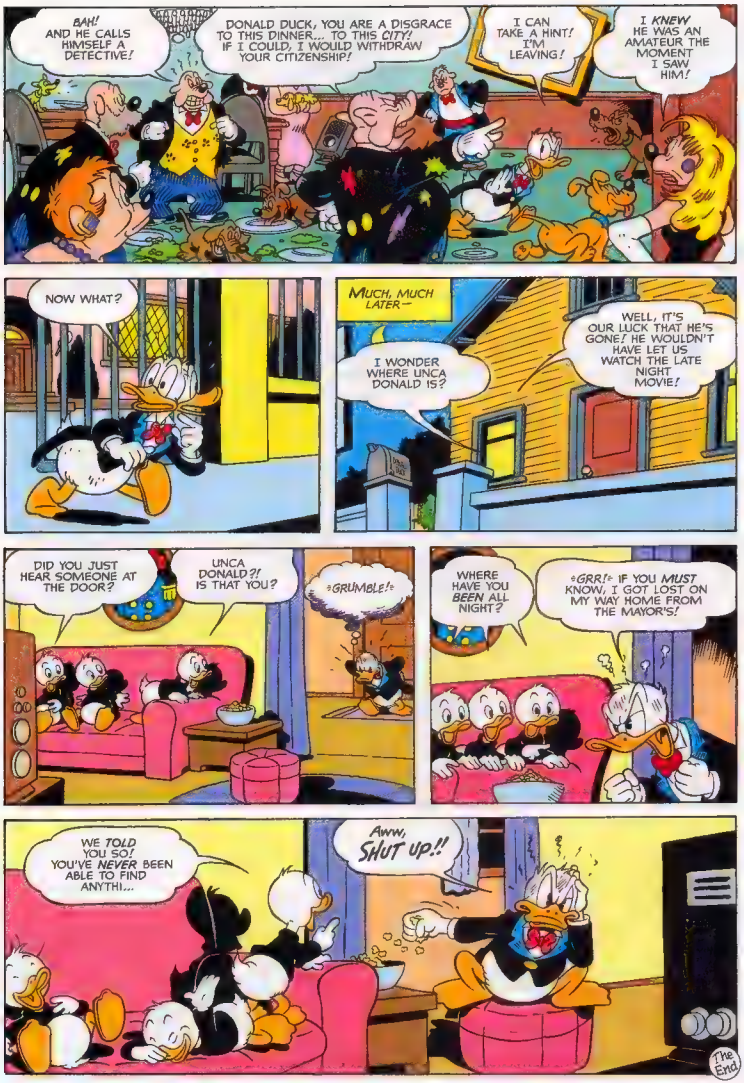
AND A NEW CLIENT IT IS! A ROCKET ENGINEERING COMPANY—
WE'RE HAPPY YOU COULD COME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, Mr. DUCK!
NO PROBLEM! WHO'S MISSING?
McFIZZLE & CO.
OUR LEADING ROCKET SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR TITAN, HAS VANISHED WITH OUT A TRACE! HE'S BEEN GONE FOR A WEEK NOW! IT'S A DISASTER FOR OUR COMPANY!
WE FEAR OUR MAIN COMPETITOR, DETONEX, HAS HIRED HIM! THAT WOULD GIVE THEM THE LEADING EDGE IN THIS BUSINESS! *SHUDDER!*
DETONEX
LET ME HAVE SOME INFO ON PROFESSOR TITAN, AND I'LL LOOK INTO IT!
AND SOON—
LET'S SEE WHAT MY BOOK SAYS ABOUT VANISHING SCIENTISTS...
"...WHEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE DISAPPEAR THEY DO NOT ALWAYS WISH TO BE FOUND..."
HM, THIS IS HIS HOUSE! IT CERTAINLY APPEARS TO BE ABANDONED!
HEY YOU!! HOLD IT, OR I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
I'M NOT A THIEF! THIS IS MY OWN HOUSE! I'M JUST GETTING SOME BOOKS!
YOU'RE PROFESSOR TITAN, AREN'T YOU? DON'T YOU KNOW THAT McFIZZLE & CO. IS DESPERATE TO FIND YOU?
SO THEY PUT A SNOOP ON ME!? *SIGH!* I GUESS I'M FOUND!
BUT WHY DID YOU DISAPPEAR?
FOLLOW ME! I MIGHT AS WELL TRY TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU!


YOU SEE, MY CAREER WAS BECOMING TOO STRESSFUL, AND I STARTED LONGING FOR A SIMPLE LIFE IN NATURE!
AND I FOUND JUST THAT HERE! PEACE AND QUIET IS MUCH BETTER THAN ALL THE MONEY AND SUCCESS IN THE WORLD!
SO I GUESS YOU'RE NOT TEMPTED BY McFIZZLE'S OFFER OF A TRIPLE SALARY?
McFIZZLE DOESN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ME! HE'S JUST WORRIED THAT DETONEX WILL TAKE THE LEAD IN THE ROCKET-ENGINEERING FIELD!
SAAAAY!!!
AND SHORTLY AFTER, AT McFIZZLE & CO. —
Mr. DUCK! DID YOU FIND PROFESSOR TITAN? IS HE COMING BACK?
I DID, AND HE ISN'T! BUT I FOUND YOU SOMEONE ELSE!
MEET PROFESSOR NITRO, THE HEAD SCIENTIST AT DETONEX! HE'LL BE GLAD TO DISCUSS THE GENEROUS OFFER YOU GAVE TO PROFESSOR TITAN!
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE WORLD FAMOUS PROFESSOR NITRO!
QUITE A CLEVER MOVE, Eh, Mr. McFIZZLE?!
I'M TELLING YOU, VON BROWN... THAT DUCK IS HEADED FOR SUCCESS!
SURE ENOUGH, A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER —
UNCA DONALD, YOU'RE ON TV AGAIN!
THEY NEVER GET TIRED OF PRAISING ME! HOW DOES MY NEW TUXEDO FIT ME, HUEY?
FINE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DINNER PARTY AT THE MAYOR'S! EVERY IMPORTANT PERSON IN DUCKBURG WILL BE PRESENT!

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS—
A HEARTFELT TOAST TO ALL MY PROMINENT GUESTS! RARELY HAVE SO MANY GIFTED AND TAXPAYING... EH... I MEAN DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE BEEN ASSEMBLED IN THESE HALLS!
DARLING, HAVE YOU SEEN FROU-FROU? I CAN'T FIND HER ANY-WHERE!
NO, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR DOG IS! CAN'T IT WAIT UNTIL AFTER DINNER?
I KNOW WHAT TO DO! Mr. DUCK HERE IS A MISSING-PERSONS EXPERT! WHY NOT LET HIM FIND THE DOG!?
!
YOU'RE RIGHT! NOTHING WOULD BE EASIER FOR SUCH A GIFTED DETECTIVE!
AND WE CAN SEE HOW HE WORKS AND MARVEL AT HIS PROFESSIONALISM!
ALL RIGHT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! I'LL FIND IT!
GOOD THING I NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT MY BOOK! I REMEMBER THERE WAS A CHAPTER ABOUT MISSING DOGS!
MY BOOK?! I LEFT IT HERE UNDER MY CHAIR, AND NOW IT'S GONE!
WHEN WILL HE START?
SSCH! HE'S ALREADY BEGUN I THINK!
IT'S SO EXCITING TO WATCH A REAL GENIUS AT WORK!
÷GULP!÷ I GUESS I HAVE TO PULL THIS ONE OFF WITHOUT MY BOOK!


DOGGIE, DOGGIE! GOOD DOGGIE... EH... DOGGIE WANT A BISCUIT...?
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO?!
EH, I WOULD LIKE TO BE SHOWN THE DOG'S PERSONAL BELONGINGS!
OBVIOUSLY A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION!
HERE IS FROU-FROU'S LEASH, RUBBER BONE AND A DOG WHISTLE!
WHAT DO I DO WITH THAT STUFF?
PERHAPS I CAN CALL HIM BACK WITH THIS DOG WHISTLE?!
NOTHING HAPPENED! MAYBE THE WHISTLE ISN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH!
DO YOU SEE THE GLEAM OF GENIUS IN HIS EYES?!
HM, WHAT IF I BLOW INTO THE MICROPHONE THAT'S ATTACHED TO THE MAYOR'S STEREO SYSTEM?
AND TURN THE VOLUME UP TO MAX! THAT SHOULD BE "HEARD" ALL AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
Huh?
GRRR!
ARF!
BOW-WOW!
WROOF!

ARF! ARF!
GRRRR!
WROOF!
GASP!
A DOG INVASION!
ACK!! MAYBE I OVERDID IT!?
GAAH! THAT DUCK IS GOING TO PAY FOR THIS!
EEEK! GET THAT BEAR AWAY FROM ME!
BAD DOG! YOU HEAR? BAD, BAD DOG!
ARF! ARF!
GASP! LOOK EVERYBODY, WHAT I JUST FOUND UNDER THE TABLE!
FROU-FROU! Oh, MY LITTLE DOGGIE! COME TO MOMMY!
IT WAS RIGHT AT Mr. DUCK'S FEET, UNDER THE TABLECLOTH, THE WHOLE TIME!
ACK! MY BOOK!
GRR!


BAH! AND HE CALLS HIMSELF A DETECTIVE!
DONALD DUCK, YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO THIS DINNER... TO THIS CITY! IF I COULD, I WOULD WITHDRAW YOUR CITIZENSHIP!
I CAN TAKE A HINT! I'M LEAVING!
I KNEW HE WAS AN AMATEUR THE MOMENT I SAW HIM!
NOW WHAT?
MUCH, MUCH LATER—
I WONDER WHERE UNCA DONALD IS?
WELL, IT'S OUR LUCK THAT HE'S GONE! HE WOULDN'T HAVE LET US WATCH THE LATE NIGHT MOVIE!
DID YOU JUST HEAR SOMEONE AT THE DOOR?
UNCA DONALD?! IS THAT YOU?
GRUMBLE!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL NIGHT?
GRR!... IF YOU MUST KNOW, I GOT LOST ON MY WAY HOME FROM THE MAYOR'S!
WE TOLD YOU SO! YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANYTHI...
AWW, SHUT UP!!
THE END

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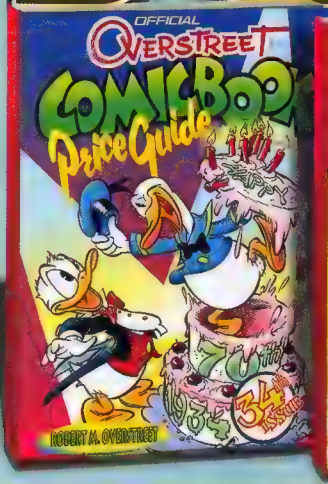

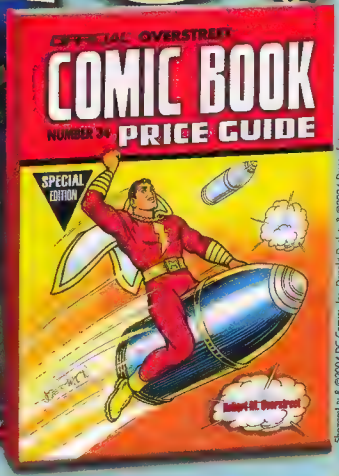

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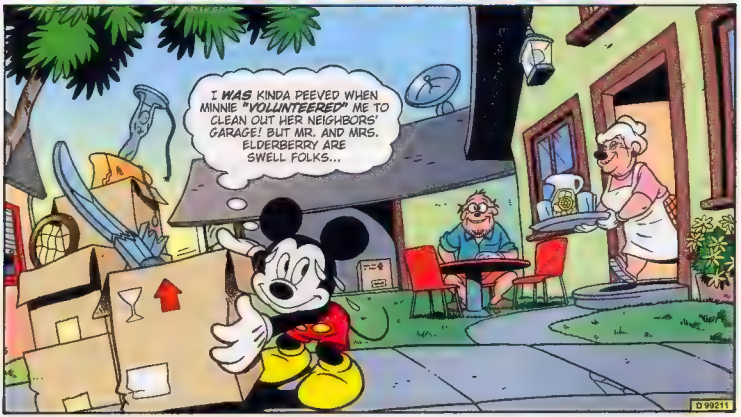
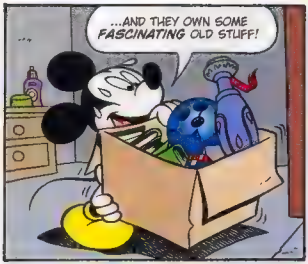
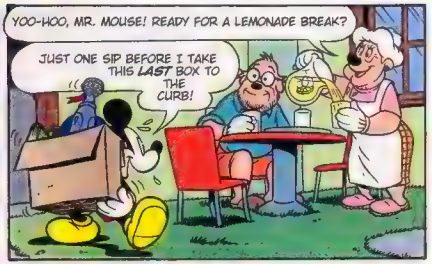
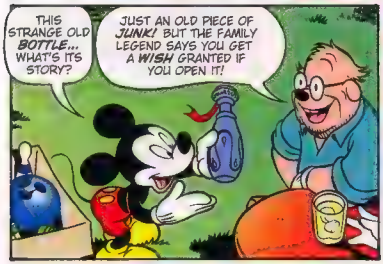
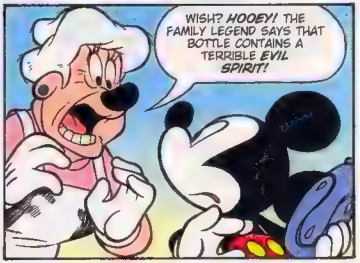
MICKEY MOUSE in Bagarthach the Archfiend

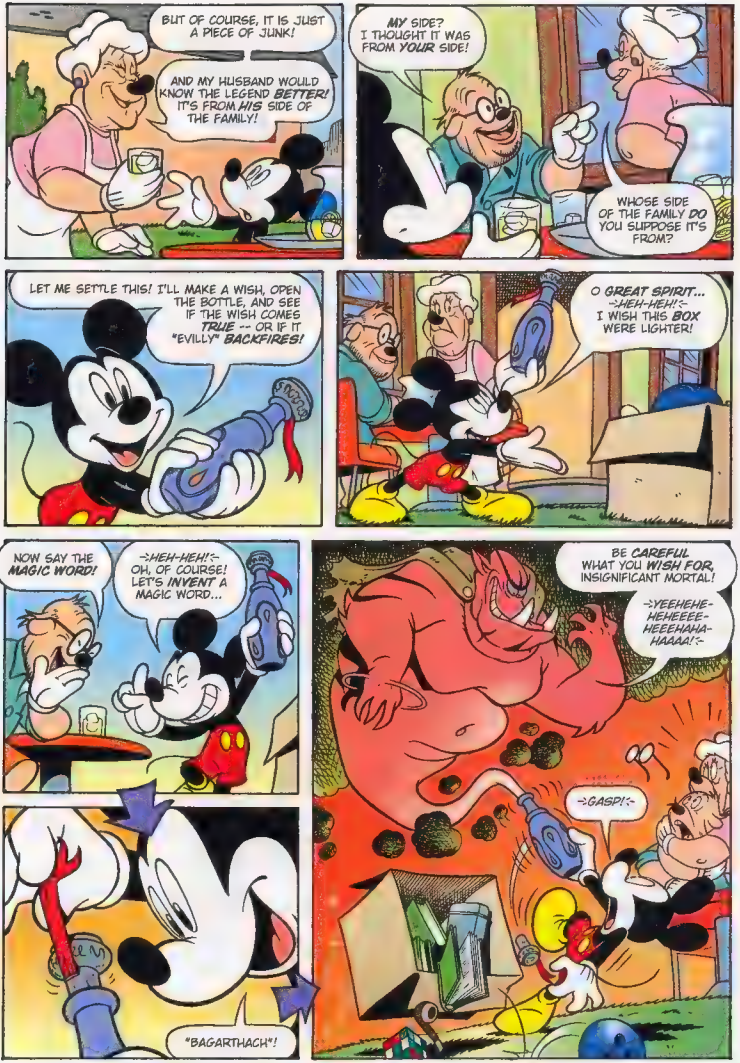

I HAS KINDA PEEVED WHEN MINNIE "VOLUNTEERED" ME TO CLEAN OUT HER NEIGHBORS' GARAGE! BUT MR. AND MRS. ELDERBERRY ARE SWELL FOLKS...
D 99211

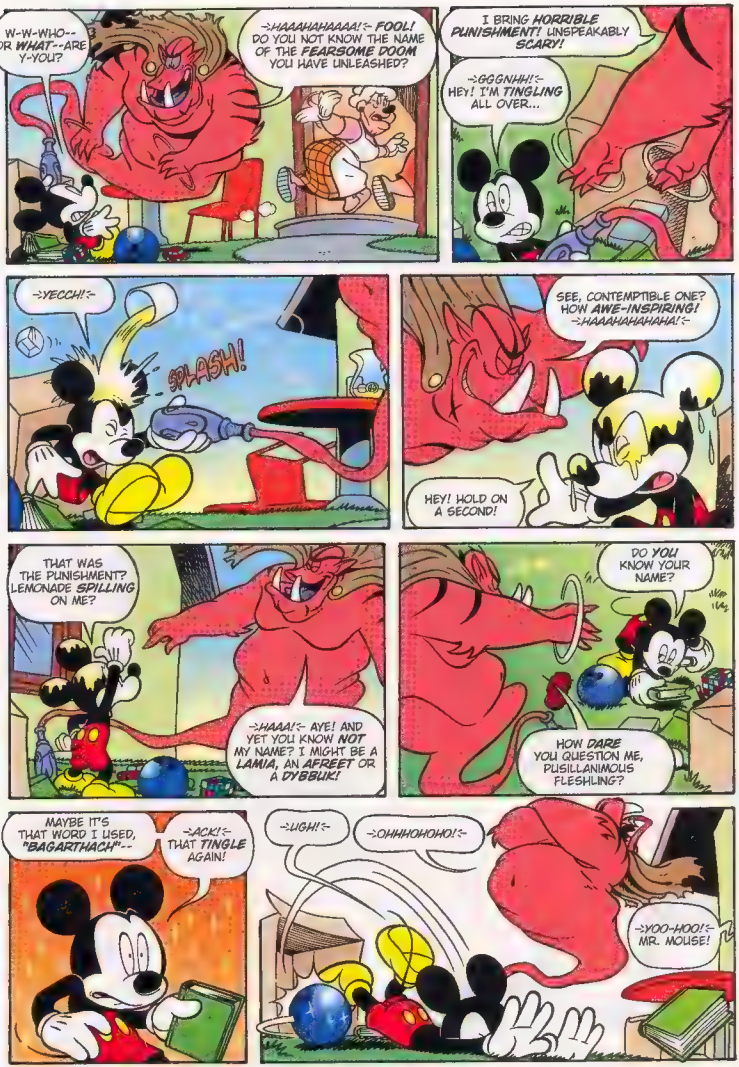


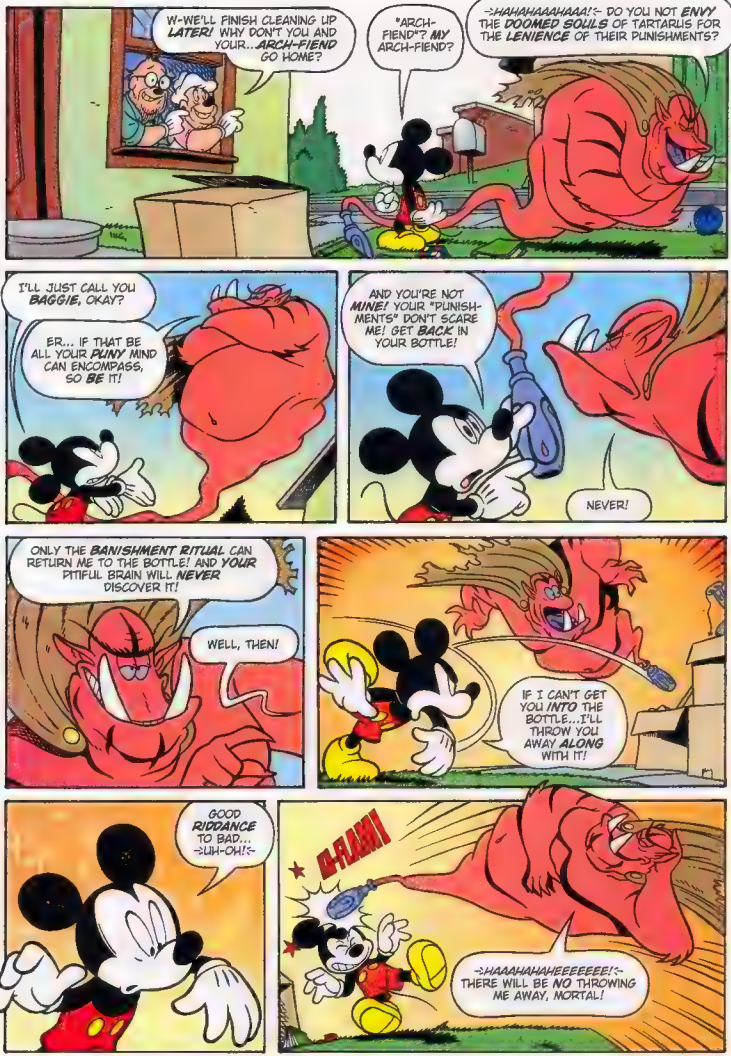


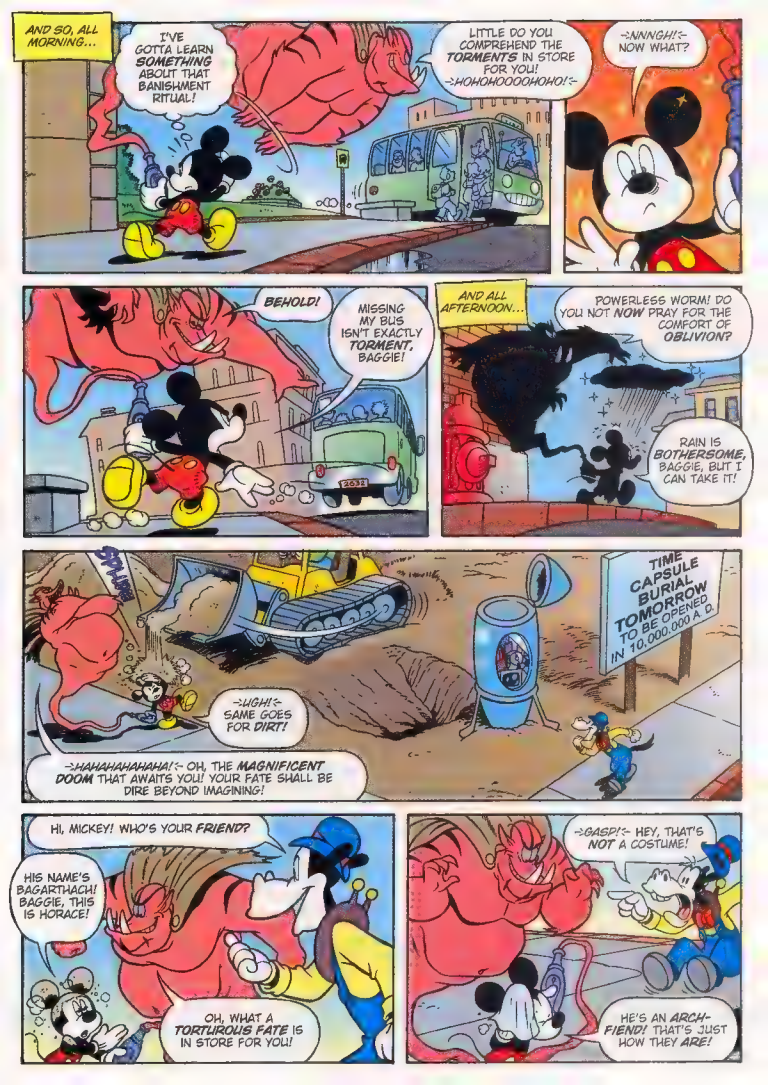

THIS STRANGE OLD BOTTLE... WHAT'S ITS STORY?
JUST AN OLD PIECE OF JUNK! BUT THE FAMILY LEGEND SAYS YOU GET A WISH GRANTED IF YOU OPEN IT!



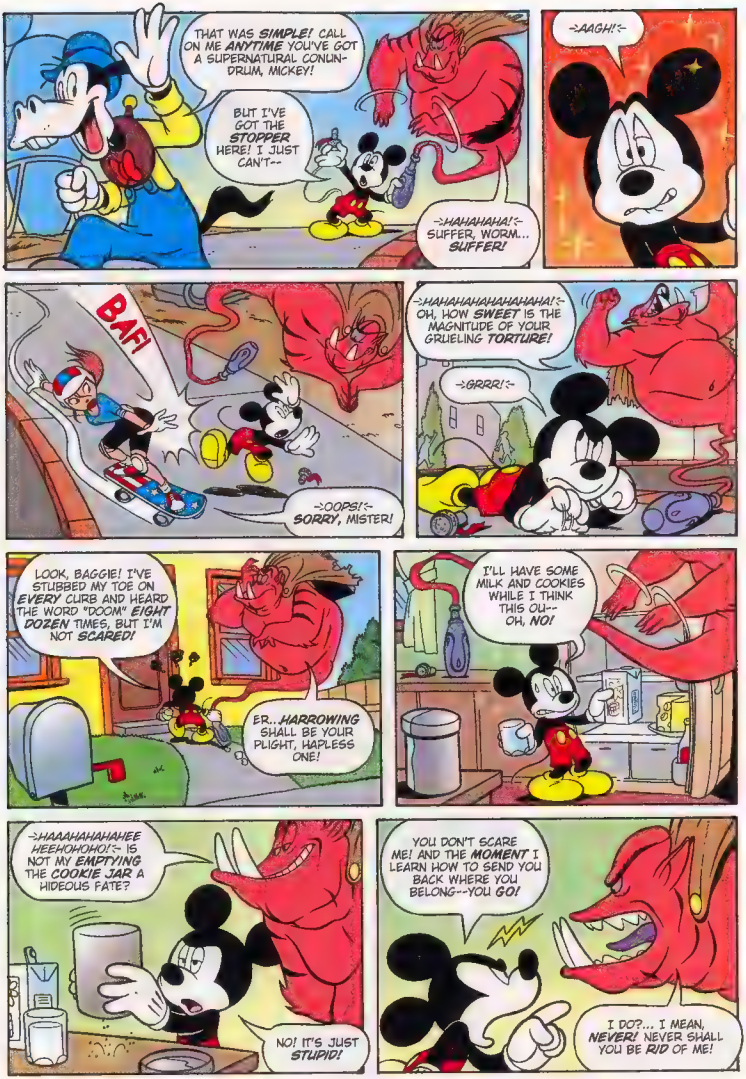

BUT OF COURSE, IT IS JUST A PIECE OF JUNK!
AND MY HUSBAND WOULD KNOW THE LEGEND BETTER! IT'S FROM HIS SIDE OF THE FAMILY!
MY SIDE? I THOUGHT IT WAS FROM YOUR SIDE!
WHOSE SIDE OF THE FAMILY DO YOU SUPPOSE IT'S FROM?
LET ME SETTLE THIS! I'LL MAKE A WISH, OPEN THE BOTTLE, AND SEE IF THE WISH COMES TRUE -- OR IF IT "EVILLY" BACKFIRES!
O GREAT SPIRIT... -:HEH-HEH!:- I WISH THIS BOX WERE LIGHTER!
NOW SAY THE MAGIC WORD!
-:HEH-HEH!:- OH, OF COURSE! LET'S INVENT A MAGIC WORD...
"BAGARTHAGH"!
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR, INSIGNIFICANT MORTAL!
-:YEEHEHE-HEHEEEE-HEEEHAHA-HAAAA!:-
-:GASP!:-


W-W-WHO--OR WHAT--ARE Y-YOU?
~:HAAAHAHAAAA!:~ FOOL! DO YOU NOT KNOW THE NAME OF THE FEARSOME DOOM YOU HAVE UNLEASHED?
I BRING HORRIBLE PUNISHMENT! UNSPEAKABLY SCARY!
~:GGGNHH!:~ HEY! I'M TINGLING ALL OVER...
~:YECCH!:~
SPLASH!
SEE, CONTEMPTIBLE ONE? HOW AWE-INSPIRING! ~:HAAAHAHAHAHA!:~
HEY! HOLD ON A SECOND!
THAT WAS THE PUNISHMENT? LEMONADE SPILLING ON ME?
~:HAAA!:~ AYE! AND YET YOU KNOW NOT MY NAME? I MIGHT BE A LAMIA, AN AFREET OR A DYBBUK!
DO YOU KNOW YOUR NAME?
HOW DARE YOU QUESTION ME, PUSILLANIMOUS FLESHLING?
MAYBE IT'S THAT WORD I USED, "BAGARTHACH"--
~:ACK!:~ THAT TINGLE AGAIN!
~:UGH!:~
~:OHHHOHOHO!:~
~:YOO-HOO!:~ MR. MOUSE!


W-WE'LL FINISH CLEANING UP LATER! WHY DON'T YOU AND YOUR...ARCH-FIEND GO HOME?
"ARCH-FIEND"? MY ARCH-FIEND?
-:HAHAHAAAHAAA!:- DO YOU NOT ENVY THE DOOMED SOULS OF TARTARUS FOR THE LENIENCE OF THEIR PUNISHMENTS?
I'LL JUST CALL YOU BAGGIE, OKAY?
ER... IF THAT BE ALL YOUR RUNY MIND CAN ENCOMPASS, SO BE IT!
AND YOU'RE NOT MINE! YOUR "PUNISHMENTS" DON'T SCARE ME! GET BACK IN YOUR BOTTLE!
NEVER!
ONLY THE BANISHMENT RITUAL CAN RETURN ME TO THE BOTTLE! AND YOUR PITIFUL BRAIN WILL NEVER DISCOVER IT!
WELL, THEN!
IF I CAN'T GET YOU INTO THE BOTTLE...I'LL THROW YOU AWAY ALONG WITH IT!
GOOD RIDDANCE TO BAD... -:UH-OH!:-
-:FLAM!
-:AAAAHAHAEEEEEEE!:- THERE WILL BE NO THROWING ME AWAY, MORTAL!

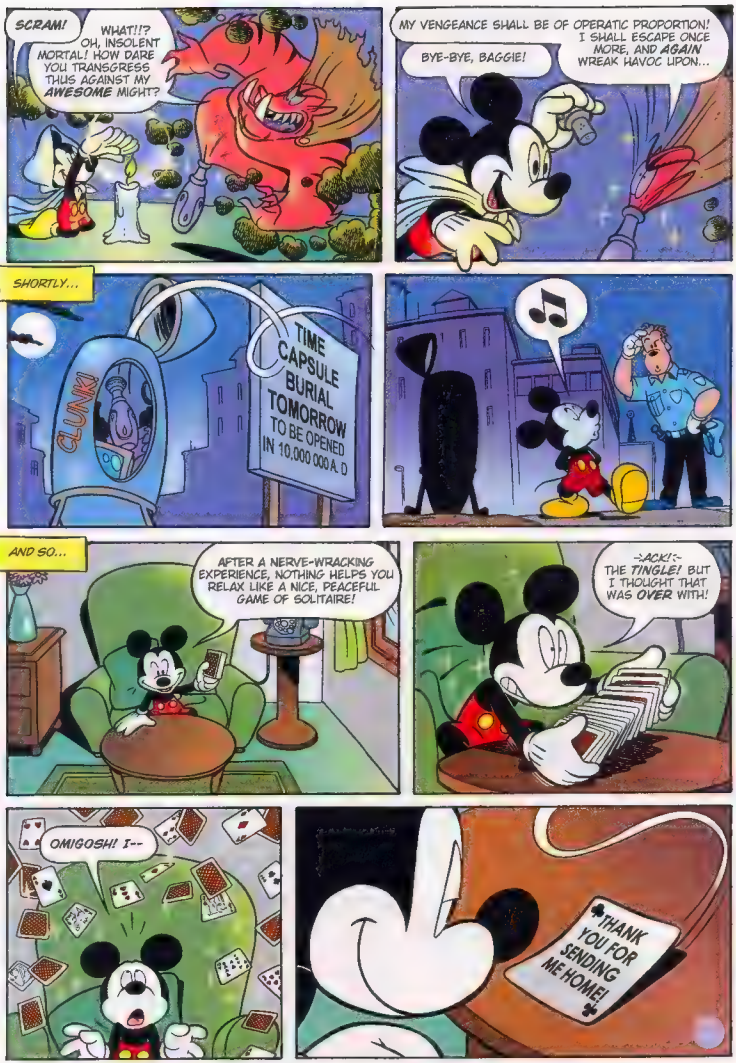

AND SO, ALL MORNING...
I'VE GOTTA LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THAT BANISHMENT RITUAL!
LITTLE DO YOU COMPREHEND THE TORMENTS IN STORE FOR YOU! :-HOHOHOOOOHOHO!:-
:-NNNGH!:- NOW WHAT?
BEHOLD!
MISSING MY BUS ISN'T EXACTLY TORMENT, BAGGIE!
AND ALL AFTERNOON...
POWERLESS WORM! DO YOU NOT NOW PRAY FOR THE COMFORT OF OBLIVION?
RAIN IS BOTHERSOME, BAGGIE, BUT I CAN TAKE IT!
TIME CAPSULE BURIAL TOMORROW TO BE OPENED IN 10,000,000 A.D.
:-UGH!:- SAME GOES FOR DIRT!
:-HAHAHAHAHAHA!:- OH, THE MAGNIFICENT DOOM THAT AWAITS YOU! YOUR FATE SHALL BE DIRE BEYOND IMAGINING!
HI, MICKEY! WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
HIS NAME'S BAGARTHACH! BAGGIE, THIS IS HORACE!
OH, WHAT A TORTUROUS FATE IS IN STORE FOR YOU!
:-GASP!:- HEY, THAT'S NOT A COSTUME!
HE'S AN ARCH-FIEND! THAT'S JUST HOW THEY ARE!

-:GULP!:- IF I WERE YOU, I W-WOULDN'T HANG OUT WITH HIM...
DON'T BE SCARED! HE'S JUST PESKY, NOT DANGEROUS!
ANYWAY, I HAFTA HANG OUT WITH HIM! HE'S ATTACHED TO THIS BOTTLE!
GET RID OF THE BOTTLE!
BUT I CAN'T!
-:NNGH!:-
WHAP!
-:OWCH!:-
SEE?
SO I'M STUCK WITH BAGGIE LINTIL I GET HIM BACK INSIDE!
YOUR DOOM IS PRE-ORDAINED, CRETIN! -:HOHOHOHO HEEEEEHEHEHE!:-
DON'T BE SO SURE! I'M AN EXPERT ON BANISHING EVIL SPIRITS!
BUT I'VE EXAMINED EVERY INCH OF THAT BOTTLE...
I CAN SEE YOUR PROBLEM, MICKEY! WHY, THE ANSWER'S PLAIN AS DAY!
IT IS? FER GOSH SAKES, TELL ME!
YOU NEED A LID FOR THE BOTTLE!
WHAT!!?

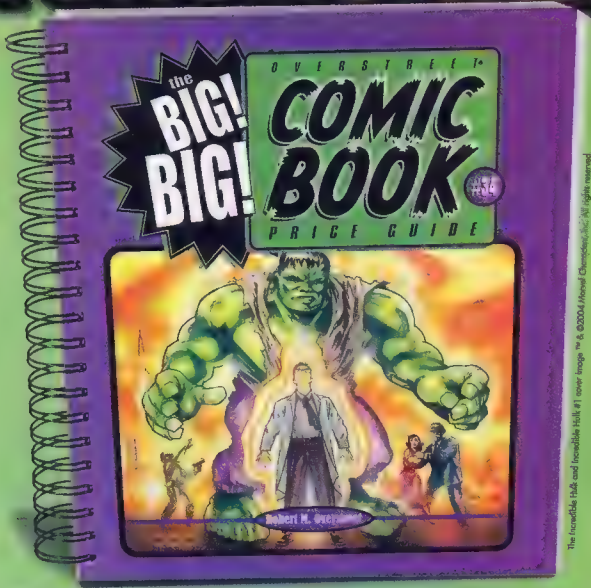

THAT WAS SIMPLE! CALL ON ME ANYTIME YOU'VE GOT A SUPERNATURAL CONUNDRUM, MICKEY!
BUT I'VE GOT THE STOPPER HERE! I JUST CAN'T--
=>HAHAHAHA!<= SUFFER, WORM... SUFFER!
=>AAGH!<=
BAM!
=>OOPS!<= SORRY, MISTER!
=>HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!<= OH, HOW SWEET IS THE MAGNITUDE OF YOUR GRUELING TORTURE!
=>GRRR!<=
LOOK, BAGGIE! I'VE STUBBED MY TOE ON EVERY CURB AND HEARD THE WORD "DOOM" EIGHT DOZEN TIMES, BUT I'M NOT SCARED!
ER...HARROWING SHALL BE YOUR PLIGHT, HAPLESS ONE!
I'LL HAVE SOME MILK AND COOKIES WHILE I THINK THIS OU--- OH, NO!
=>HAAAHAHAHAHEE HEEHOHOHO!<= IS NOT MY EMPTYING THE COOKIE JAR A HIDEOUS FATE?
NO! IT'S JUST STUPID!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME! AND THE MOMENT I LEARN HOW TO SEND YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG---YOU GO!
I DO?... I MEAN, NEVER! NEVER SHALL YOU BE RID OF ME!

OH?
CONTEMPT-WORTHY BUFFOON! IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD...-:HAHAHA HAHAHAHAHAAAA!:-
...NO GOOD AT ALL TO EXAMINE THE STOPPER! -:HEEE HEEHEEHAHAHA!:-
!!
YES!
WEAR A ROBE, BURN A CANDLE, GESTURE CRAZILY AND I'M RID OF YOU, EH, BAGGIE?
-:HAHAHAHAHA!:- MISERY! DOOM! -:HOHOHOHOHO!:-
I'LL GET THE CANDLE FROM THAT STORE!
WRONG STO--I MEAN, -:HOHOHOHO!:- NEVER! YOUR GHASTLY FATE IS INESCAPABLE!
-:AIYAIYA!:-
KA-RASH!
-:HAHAHA!:- OH, VACUOUS DUNCE... -:HOHO!:- YOU WILL NEVER OBTAIN THE FAROFFISTAN! YAK TALLOW NEEDED TO MAKE THE CANDLE! -:HEEHEEHEE!:-
SPECIAL TODAY MOLASSES

~AHEM!~ BAGGIE'S RIGHT! I'D NEVER OBTAIN YAK TALLOW! GUESS HE'LL JUST HAVE TO STAY OUTSIDE THE BOTTLE!
OH, NO! ER, THAT IS...
OF COURSE I WILL STAY, OPPOBRIOUS SCUM! YOU COULD NEVER FIND THE FAROFF!STAN! IMPORT COMPANY AT THE WATER-FRONT! ~HOHOHOHO!~
~UH-HUH!~ THOUGHT SO!
HERE'S THE IMPORT COMPANY! COMING, BAGGIE?
FEARSOME SHALL BE YOUR LOT, ABJECT CUR! ~EEEEEHEEHEEHEEHEE!~
BACK HOME...
OKAY, BAGGIE, YOUR DAYS ARE NUM-
OH, WRETCHED SHALL BE YOUR FATE! ~HOOHOHOHOOOOHAHAHA!~
AW, MAN! THAT TINGLE AGAIN!
~AAAAAHAHAHAHA!~ NOW DO YOU COMPREHEND HOW FATHOMLESS BE THE ABYSMAL DEPTHS OF-
GEEZ! IF YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT DIFFICULT, I COULD QUIT RIGHT NOW!
~HUH?!~
IS THAT WHAT YA WANT? SHOULD I SET UP A COT? YA WANNA BE MY ROOMMATE, BAGGIE? HUH?
ER...UH...YOU'LL NEVER GUESS THE MAGIC WORD, INCIPIENT WORLDLING! ~HOHO!~
MAGIC WORD, HUH? YOU'LL HAFTA TAKE THE ONLY ONE I'VE GOT... AND LIKE IT!


SCRAM!
WHAT!!? OH, INSOLENT MORTAL! HOW DARE YOU TRANSGRESS THUS AGAINST MY AWESOME MIGHT?
MY VENGEANCE SHALL BE OF OPERATIC PROPORTION! I SHALL ESCAPE ONCE MORE, AND AGAIN WREAK HAVOC UPON...
BYE-BYE, BAGGIE!
SHORTLY...
CLUNK!
TIME CAPSULE BURIAL TOMORROW TO BE OPENED IN 10,000 000 A.D
AND SO...
AFTER A NERVE-WRACKING EXPERIENCE, NOTHING HELPS YOU RELAX LIKE A NICE, PEACEFUL GAME OF SOLITAIRE!
-:ACK!:- THE TINGLE! BUT I THOUGHT THAT WAS OVER WITH!
OMIGOSH! I--
THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME HOME!

FLIPPABLE! FACTUAL! FUNCTIONAL!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Walt Disney's

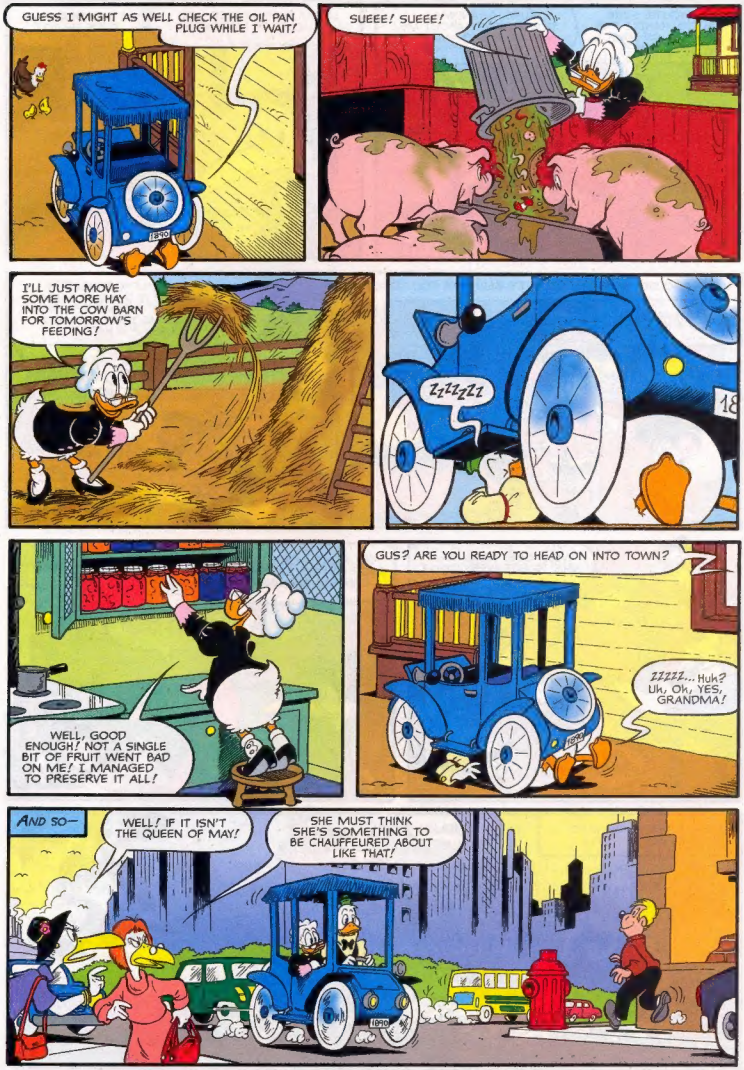
Grandma Duck • GRANDMA GOES TO TOWN

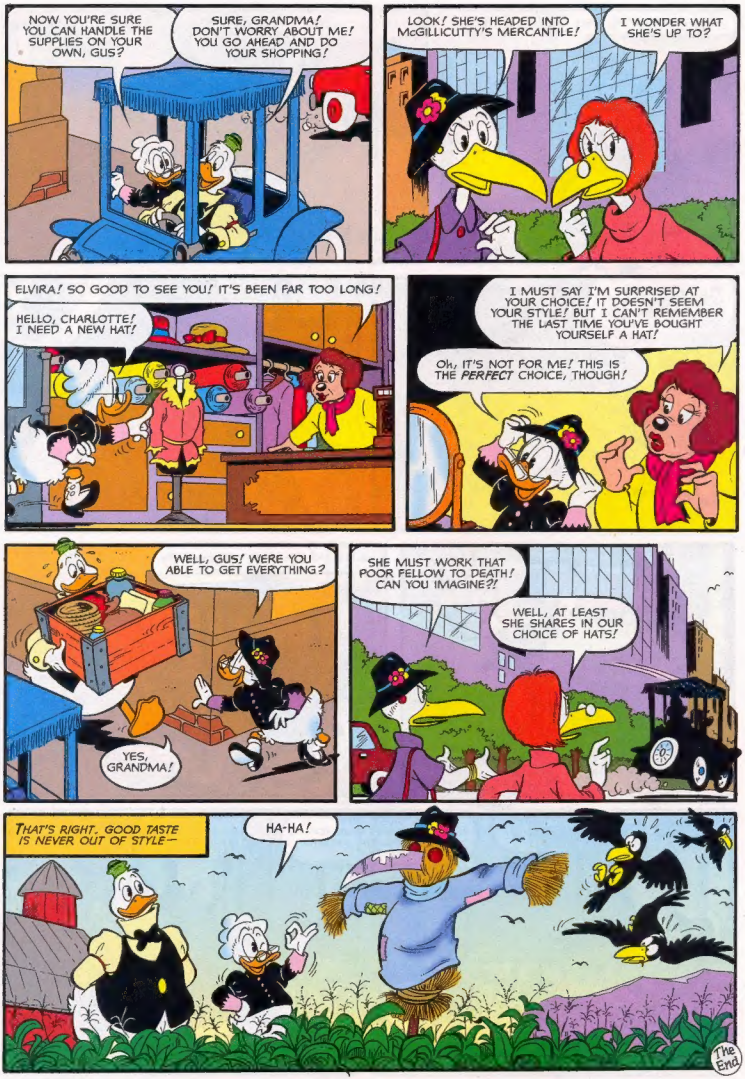
GUS! C'MON! ROUSE YOURSELF! TODAY'S MARKET DAY AND WE HAVE TO GO TO TOWN!
D 96391
IS IT THAT TIME OF THE MONTH ALREADY?
YES! NOW GET A MOVE ON! I WANT TO LEAVE FIRST THING AFTER MORNING CHORES!
YES, MA'AM!
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

THESE POOR DEARS WORK SO HARD, I HATE TO DISTURB THEM, BUT THAT'S LIFE ON A FARM, AND THESE EGGS HELP PAY FOR THEIR FEED!
COWS ARE SUCH MIRACLES! YOU FEED 'EM SOME HAY...
...AND THEY GIVE YOU SOME MILK!
WELL I'M JUST ON TRACK! IT'LL SOON BE DAYLIGHT!
I'LL HAVE YOUR BREAKFAST READY IN A JIFFY, GUS!
THANKS, GRANDMA!
DOESN'T ALL THIS SMELL WONDERFUL?
ZZZZZ
THERE'S LOTS MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM, GUS!
EH?
CAW!
CAW!
CAW!
CAW!

YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME, YOU VARMINTS!
I'LL GIVE YOU JUST TEN SECONDS TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE!
GO ON! SHOO! GET AWAY!
BAWHOOM!
HAH! THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO FEAST ON MY CORN!
GRANDMA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
PERFECTLY FINE, GUS! WOULD YOU PLEASE MAKE SURE MY ELECTRIC CAR IS ALL CHARGED UP AND READY TO TAKE US TO TOWN?
YES'M!
THERE! THAT SHOULD HOLD 'EM OFF FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

BOY! UHHH! I THINK GRANDMA'S OLD DETROIT ELECTRIC IS IN BETTER SHAPE THAN THIS DOOR!
MMMM! AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THE OLD SPRING JUST KEEPS GIVING ME THE SWEETEST WATER!
OKAY, BOYS! I WANT YOU BOTH TO DRINK YOUR FILL!
I'LL SOON BE PUTTING YOU TO HARD WORK!
THAT'S IT! GET UP! HEYAH!
GOOD JOB, BOYS! YOU'VE A BAG OF OATS EACH COMING TO YOU!
NOT MUCH LONGER BEFORE THE CAR IS ALL CHARGED UP!


GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL CHECK THE OIL PAN PLUG WHILE I WAIT!
SUEEE! SUEEE!
I'LL JUST MOVE SOME MORE HAY INTO THE COW BARN FOR TOMORROW'S FEEDING!
ZzZzZz
WELL, GOOD ENOUGH! NOT A SINGLE BIT OF FRUIT WENT BAD ON ME! I MANAGED TO PRESERVE IT ALL!
GUS? ARE YOU READY TO HEAD ON INTO TOWN?
ZZZZZ... Huh? Uh, Oh, YES, GRANDMA!
AND SO—
WELL! IF IT ISN'T THE QUEEN OF MAY!
SHE MUST THINK SHE'S SOMETHING TO BE CHAUFFEURED ABOUT LIKE THAT!


NOW YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THE SUPPLIES ON YOUR OWN, GUS?
SURE, GRANDMA! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! YOU GO AHEAD AND DO YOUR SHOPPING!
LOOK! SHE'S HEADED INTO McGILLICUTTY'S MERCANTILE!
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S UP TO?
ELVIRA! SO GOOD TO SEE YOU! IT'S BEEN FAR TOO LONG!
HELLO, CHARLOTTE! I NEED A NEW HAT!
I MUST SAY I'M SURPRISED AT YOUR CHOICE! IT DOESN'T SEEM YOUR STYLE! BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME YOU'VE BOUGHT YOURSELF A HAT!
OH, IT'S NOT FOR ME! THIS IS THE *PERFECT* CHOICE, THOUGH!
WELL, GUS! WERE YOU ABLE TO GET EVERYTHING?
YES, GRANDMA!
SHE MUST WORK THAT POOR FELLOW TO DEATH! CAN YOU IMAGINE?!
WELL, AT LEAST SHE SHARES IN OUR CHOICE OF HATS!
THAT'S RIGHT, GOOD TASTE IS NEVER OUT OF STYLE—
HA-HA!
THE END

As an old riddle goes: "What's worse than a giraffe with a sore throat?" Well...lots of things, actually, but not *Donald Duck and Friends* 312. In Janet Gilbert's "Emergency Duck," not only does Donald tend to said giraffe but to other potential punch lines, such as an elephant with a stuffed nose and a snake with a sore back, with the expertise demonstrated in decades of Carl Barks' "Mastery Stories." Though I momentarily wondered why a cow and bull would reside among the population of zoo animals, I soon realized that a good "bad guy gets bull-horned in the butt" gag was more than worth this minor quibble.

Was there ever a more inappropriately named land than Mickey Mouse's magical realm of "Shambor"? This wonderful series by Pat and Carol McGreal and Cesar Ferioli has been anything but a **"sham,"** and has never **"bored"** me for a moment! Ferioli, in particular, is due high praise for some of the greatest art ever seen in a Mouse comic – from the nightmarish-yet-funny "knife and fork wielding, zombielike Goofy" to the majestically soaring mythical Thunderbird! Indeed, to paraphrase the classic song, with this story: "I had fun, fun, fun 'till The Book of Shambor took the T-Bird away!"

Lastly, "King of Chaos" adds a heretofore unseen dimension to the Donald/Neighbor Jones backyard feud. Beyond the usual veggie and snowball wars, we learn that D 'n' J actually **take pride** in the mayhem they manufacture. The "fighting fire with charcoal" sequence on page one was pure comic genius. May this pernicious pair never run out of their seemingly endless supply of "weapons of mass hilarity."

Joe Torcivia
via email

Am I going to be the first reader to say that the Shambor stories aren't all that great? I hate to say it, because people seem to be enjoying them so much, but they don't really make a lot of sense, do they? Mickey hops from one sequence to another, and it seems like he's just making it up as he goes along, page by page. Halfway through the last segment, Mickey discovers that the "nasty, mercenary wizard" Thornenclaw is messing with his dreams. But we don't have time to find out why Thornenclaw is doing that, or what he gets out of it, because we've only got four pages to defeat him and get back to reality. It feels like everything rushes along so quickly that the characters only have a moment to introduce themselves and play their little part in the story before Mickey moves on to somebody else. Saying that everything happens because of a prophecy is just a cop-out; it's a way to justify any random coincidence the writers feel like setting up. Fantasy stories work better when they involve real characters in situations that we can follow. Pushing Mickey through a series of high-concept scenes doesn't really do it for me. That being said, I think Ferioli's artwork is beautiful. The panel designs are all varied and wonderful to look at, and the coloring effects on the flames and the clouds are way beyond anything else I've seen in a Disney comic.

But if you're thinking about producing a Mickey graphic novel, I'd much prefer a collection of the Erickson/Ferioli stories like "The Copy Cat Crimes." Those are a lot funnier than Shambor, they make more sense...and, frankly, they're less pretentious than Shambor is. Fewer prophecies and more robots, that's for me.

Danny Horn
via email

Steve Thompson's comments in *DD&F* 313's lettercol regarding the "Shambor" cycle were, as you pointed out, factually incorrect. When Bill Walsh took over the writing chores on the Mickey strip, he and Gottfredson produced a steady stream of stories involving "fantastic" elements. Many of these stories were never reprinted in comic-book form because Western Publishing's policy on Mickey stories changed in the late 40s from an emphasis on original strip reprints to a preference for redrawn Gottfredson strips and, eventually, entirely new material. As a result, this portion of Mickey's "on-paper" career has never gotten the attention it merits.

More to the point, what makes a Mickey story truly memorable and meaningful is not what Mickey **does** so much as who Mickey **is**. The "Shambor" stories (along with the tales by Noel Van Horn, David Gerstein, and other modern creators) have been especially successful at marrying effective storytelling to a forward-thinking and thoroughly admirable characterization of Mickey. Such subtle sidebars as Princess Lorac's growing crush on Shambor's "drop-in hero" – akin to the relationship between DC's Adam Strange and the Princess of Rann – add interest to the storyline and make Mickey seem less like a stalwart "stick-in-the-mud" and more like a well-rounded protagonist who must (and can!) deal with the "unexpected consequences" of success.

Chris Barat
via email

MEET THE NOD SQUAD

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